

CERTIFICATE OF ENROLLMENT

SENATE RESOLUTION R-32-2

BOARD BILL 5.07


32nd Session
2025-2026 Academic Year

Passed by the Board January
22, 2026. YEAS 9 NAYS 0.

CERTIFICATE


Nandana Jaideep
President, Board of Directors

Passed by the Senate January
20th, 2026. YEAS 68 NAYS 28.



Erick Jacobsen
Speaker, Student Senate

I, Erick Jacobsen, Speaker of the Senate of the Associated Students of the University of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SENATE RESOLUTION R-32-2** as passed by the Senate on the date set forth.



Erick Jacobsen
Speaker, Student Senate



SENATE RESOLUTION R-32-2
A Resolution to Participate in
the Western Undergraduate Exchange

Under Consideration – 2025-2026 Academic Year

A.S.U.W.

Fall Quarter 2025

32nd Session

Sponsored by Erick Jacobsen, *Speaker of the ASUW Senate.*

Referred to Committee on General Affairs 16-4-0. Read on the floor
XX/XX/XXXX.

SUMMARY: The Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) is an interstate program across 16 U.S. states and territories which caps undergraduate tuition for non-resident students at 150% the rate for residents of the state or territory at participating institutions. Although WSU is a member of this program, and UW is a member of the graduate and health professional equivalent programs, UW does not participate in WUE. This Bill calls for UW to participate in the program, which would drastically drive down non-resident tuition costs and increase college affordability and accessibility for non-Washingtonian students.

1 **WHEREAS** Washington State is a member of the Western Interstate
2 Commission on Higher Education (WICHE), one of four regional
3 interstate compacts on higher education, alongside 15 other U.S.
4 states and territories [1]; and

5 **WHEREAS** WICHE organizes and administrates the Western
6 Undergraduate Exchange (WUE), Western Regional Graduate Program
7 (WRGP), and Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP), three
8 tuition-saving initiatives serving students who seek higher
9 education out-of-state [2]; and

10 **WHEREAS** WUE caps tuition for out-of-state students at 150% the
11 rate of resident students, saving \$12,517 on average per student
12 across 170 participating institutions [3]; and

13 **WHEREAS** WRGP sets the same tuition cap for graduate programs,
14 saving \$13,961 on average per student across 67 participating
15 institutions [4]; and

WHEREAS PSEP entitles out-of-state students to tuition support from their home state or territory in 130+ professional education programs across 10 health-related fields, saving \$36,500 to \$142,800 per student [5]; and

WHEREAS the University of Washington participates in WRGP [4] and PSEP [5] but not WUE [3]; and

WHEREAS eight Washington institutions of public higher education are a part of WUE, namely Central Washington University, Eastern Washington University, Evergreen State College, Washington State University, Washington State University Everett, Washington State University Tri-Cities, Washington State University Vancouver, and Western Washington University [3]; and

WHEREAS in the 2024-2025 school year WUE has saved students \$616 million in tuition across its member states and territories [1], and \$99.6 million in tuition for Washington students in particular [6]; and

WHEREAS Washington State and UW in particular, benefit from WICHE in many other ways, including "regional collaboration, resource-sharing, sound public policy, and innovation" [6]; and

16 **WHEREAS** participating in WUE would be one way of giving back to
17 the residents of states and territories that have made these
18 benefits possible; and

19 **WHEREAS** resident undergraduate students at UW pay \$13,406 per
20 year in tuition and fees, while out-of-state students pay \$44,640
21 per year, over 300% the rate for residents [7]; and

22 **WHEREAS** nevertheless, the University of Washington does not offer
23 any need-based state or institutional grants to out-of-state
24 students, leaving students to rely primarily on federal grants
25 and loans [8]; and

26 **WHEREAS** the fate of these grants and loans is unclear under the
27 current Presidential administration, leaving many students
28 financially insecure [9]; and

29 **WHEREAS** 90% of students who receive a Pell Grant still face unmet
30 need, as do 56% of students who do not, with the greatest gaps in
31 affordability falling on people of color [10]; and

32 **WHEREAS** attending an out-of-state institution not only provides a
33 rich experience to the student, but also brings fresh
34 perspectives to the university itself and draws new, diverse
35 residents to the state to enrich the economy and culture; and

36 **WHEREAS** the Western Undergraduate Exchange tuition cap is
37 accessible only via application, with eligibility determined by
38 each institution, and only 49,000 students among all 170
39 participating institutions receive WUE tuition, averaging 288
40 students per university and 335 students per Washington-based
41 university [13]; and

42 **WHEREAS** the cost for the University of Washington if this program
43 were implemented with 335 participants would total \$8,217,885 as
44 per the 150% rate of the in-state resident tuition; and

45 **WHEREAS** the UW spends \$18 million a year on athletic financial
46 aid, which is NOT needs-based [14]; and

47 **WHEREAS** the UW annual budget is \$11.75 billion, and would
48 therefore be reduced by this program to \$11.742 billion if
49 implemented with 335 participants, but the UW would maintain
50 control over eligibility and acceptance [15]; and

51 **WHEREAS** among flagship institutions of their state like the
52 University of Washington, understood as the most prestigious and
53 successful university in a given state, 11 participate in WUE out
54 of 15, including University of Alaska – Fairbanks, University of
55 Arizona, University of Hawaii at Manoa, University of Idaho,
56 University of Montana, University of Nevada – Reno, University of
57 New Mexico, University of North Dakota, University of South
58 Dakota, University of Utah, and University of Wyoming [16][3];
59 and

WHEREAS among R1 institutions like the University of Washington,
defined as institutions spending at least \$50 million on research
and offering at least 70 research doctorates, 18 participate in
WUE, including Arizona State University, Montana State
University, New Mexico State University, North Dakota State
University, Northern Arizona University, Oregon State University,
University of California – Merced, University of Colorado Denver
and Anschutz Medical Campus, University of Hawaii at Manoa,
University of Idaho, University of Nevada Las Vegas, University
of Nevada Reno, University of New Mexico, University of North

Dakota, University of Utah, University of Wyoming, Utah State University, and Washington State University [17][3]; and

60 **WHEREAS** among the top 50 largest colleges in the U.S., which
61 includes the University of Washington, 4 participate in WUE,
62 including California State University – Northridge, Utah Valley
63 University, University of Arizona, and Arizona State University
64 [18][3]; and

65 **WHEREAS** it is illegal for public universities to raise in-state
66 tuition above “the average annual percentage growth rate in the
67 median hourly wage” and therefore illegal to place the burden for
68 supporting this program on in-state students [19]; and

69 **WHEREAS** the process to join WUE consists of five steps: signing
70 the Memorandum of Agreement, setting eligibility requirements,
71 listing the institution on the WUE Savings Finder, annually
72 reporting on WUE enrollment, and creating a dedicated WUE
73 informational page on the institution’s website [12];

74 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE**
75 **UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON:**

THAT the University of Washington sign the Memorandum of Agreement for joining the Western Undergraduate Exchange; and

76 **THAT** the University of Washington complete the remaining steps
77 for participation in the program; and

78 **THAT** the eligibility requirements for WUE tuition capping be set
79 by a task force or committee consisting of student and faculty
80 representatives to ensure equity and access in accordance with
81 the will of the student body; and

THAT this legislation be followed up on by GAVEL to:

Robert Jones | President, *University of Washington*

Tricia Serio | Provost, *University of Washington*

Aarti Bhat | Chair, *UW Faculty Senate*

John Carmichael | Washington State Commissioner, *WICHE*,
President, *Evergreen State College*

Gerry Pollet | Washington State Commissioner, *WICHE*, and State
Representative, *Washington State Legislature*

Michael Meotti | Washington State Commissioner, *WICHE*, Executive
Director, *Washington Student Achievement Council*

References:

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- [2] **WICHE: Tuition Savings** (2025). <https://www.wiche.edu/tuition-savings/>
- [3] **WICHE: WUE Handout** (2025). <https://www.wiche.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/WUE-Handout-April-2025.pdf>
- [4] **WICHE: WRGP Handout** (2025). <https://www.wiche.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/WRGP-onesheet-2025.pdf>
- [5] **WICHE: PSEP** (2025). <https://www.wiche.edu/tuition-savings/psep/>
- [6] **WICHE: Washington** (2025). <https://www.wiche.edu/our-region/washington/>
- [7] **UW: Undergraduate Tuition and Fees Dashboard** (2025). <https://www.washington.edu/opb/tuition-fees/current-tuition-and-fees-dashboards/undergraduate-tuition-dashboard/>
- [8] **UW: Financial Aid for Non-Resident Students** (2025). <https://www.washington.edu/financialaid/non-resident-students/>
- [9] **Forbes: How Trump's Spending Bill Could Impact Student Loans (2025)**. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/alisondurkee/2025/05/23/how-trumps-spending-bill-could-impact-student-loans-including-higher-payments-and-more-restrictions/>
- [10] **IHEP: College Affordability Still Out of Reach for Students with Lowest Incomes, Students of Color** (2023). <https://www.ihep.org/college-affordability-still-out-of-reach-for-students-with-lowest-incomes-students-of-color/>
- [11] **Gallup: College Prices Seen as Unfair but Worth the Investment** (2025). <https://news.gallup.com/poll/657686/college-prices-seen-unfair-worth-investment.aspx>
- [12] **WICHE: WUE, For Institutions** (2025). <https://www.wiche.edu/tuition-savings/wue/for-institutions/>

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84 [ByTheNumbers.pdf](https://www.wiche.edu/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/2025-ByTheNumbers.pdf)
- 85 [\[14\] Here's What UW's Athletic Department Budget Looks Like for](https://www.seattletimes.com/sports/washington-huskies-football/heres-what-uws-athletic-department-budget-looks-like-for-2026/)
86 [2026 \(2025\).](https://www.seattletimes.com/sports/washington-huskies-football/heres-what-uws-athletic-department-budget-looks-like-for-2026/) [https://www.seattletimes.com/sports/washington-](https://www.seattletimes.com/sports/washington-huskies-football/heres-what-uws-athletic-department-budget-looks-like-for-2026/)
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